

HOUSE RESOLUTION 127

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Kay West on her many accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this legislative body to recognize those estimable individuals who dedicate themselves to their craft and to their communities, thereby improving and enriching the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Kay West, an accomplished author and public servant who has lived and worked in Nashville for three decades now, making untold contributions to the people of Music City all the while; and

WHEREAS, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, Ms. West moved to New York City immediately upon graduating from high school to pursue a career as a writer; she landed a receptionist job with *Penthouse* magazine a mere two days after her arrival in the Big Apple; and

WHEREAS, as the youngest person on staff at *Penthouse*, Kay West found herself the happy beneficiary of her colleagues' knowledge and experience, as they mentored and nurtured the aspiring writer; from receptionist, she worked her way up to associate editor and also began freelance writing for *SoHo Weekly News*; and

WHEREAS, while working at *Penthouse*, Ms. West covered country music and became familiar with the Nashville music industry. Her exceptional work and determination did not go unnoticed; she was recruited by Joe Galante and Randy Goodman at RCA Records to relocate to Music City and become director of publicity for the organization; and

WHEREAS, Kay West accepted the offer, and though her intention was to complete a short stint in Nashville and thereafter return to Manhattan, she made a life in Music City; for

thirty years, she has lived and thrived in Nashville, and it is here where her beloved children, one son and one daughter, were born and have grown up; and

WHEREAS, many Nashvillians are familiar with Kay West through her work in the *Nashville Scene* as a restaurant reviewer; in addition to influencing where people eat and drink in the city, she supported and championed the growth of independent restaurants and young, creative chefs. She was unafraid to write the unvarnished truth of her dining experiences, even if it meant incurring the ire of well-established chefs and restaurateurs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. West now writes as a stringer for *People Magazine*, serving as the popular magazine's primary authority on all things country music and bringing an insider's eye to stories of country music's most notable artists; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her journalistic accomplishments, Ms. West has penned various popular nonfiction books, including *How to Raise a Lady Revised and Updated: A Civilized Guide to Helping Your Daughter Through Her Uncivilized Childhood*; *How to Raise a Gentleman: A Civilized Guide to Helping Your Son Through His Uncivilized Childhood*; *50 Things Every Young Lady Should Know: What to Do, What to Say, and How to Behave*; and *Around the Opry Table: A Feast of Recipes and Stories from the Grand Ole Opry*; and

WHEREAS, a trusted leader in her community, she served as the chair of the Nashville Hot Chicken Festival for a decade, served many years on the Farmer's Market Board, and has been co-chair of Women for Tennessee's Future (WTF) for the last five years; and

WHEREAS, Kay West is devoted to serving her community in various capacities; she has served meals for Room in the Inn for many years and has been a longtime volunteer for Thistle Farms/Magdalene House; she is also often involved in the political process at both the local and national levels, having worked as events director for Mayor Barry during the now-mayor's campaign and having run a voter registration project in 2015-2016 for Congressman Jim Cooper's office; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Ms. West was selected as one of *StyleBlueprint's* FACES of Nashville; FACES is a series that honors women in Nashville, as well as female celebrities and

women throughout the South, who make a difference in their communities, making them exciting, dynamic, and unique places in which to live; and

WHEREAS, Kay West is a standout Nashvillian whose important contributions to the city have made a lasting impact, and it is fitting that she be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and commend Kay West, accomplished writer and influential Nashvillian, for her many continued contributions to her community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.